Government of Afghanistan have strengthened security for Indian personnel and projects in Afghanistan. In addition, for Zaranj-Delaram road project, being executed in security-sensitive. Nimroz/Helmand province by Border Roads Organisation, the Government of India has also deployed ITBP security personnel to supplement local Afghan security provided by the Afghan Government. The Embassy and the four Consulates in Afghanistan are provided security at levels determined by the Ministry of External Affairs in consultation with Government of Afghanistan. Indian nationals registered with the Embassy are being regularly advised about the prevailing security scenario in the country through security advisories. International Organisation/companies in Afghanistan provide security cover to their employees including Indians.

Exemption on property tax

†2236. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives exemption to different embassies on property tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the total loss incurred by Government for giving exemption to embassies on property tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (f) Under Article 23 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) 1961, "the sending State and the Head of Mission shall be exempt from all national, regional or municipal dues and taxes in respect of the premises of the Mission, whether owned or leased, other than such as represent payment for specific services rendered". India is a party to the Convention and has ratified it on 15 October 1965. In order to give effect to this Convention, Parliament has enacted the Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act 1972. In terms of provisions of the Convention, diplomatic Missions are exempt from payment of property tax to the foreign Governments concerned.

Task force on disarmament and non-proliferation

2237. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any task force has been set up by Government to review India's existing position on disarmament and non-proliferation issues;

(b) whether the task force has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to implement the above recommendations?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.